

**FRESNO METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)
(FRESNO COUNTY)**

Constructions leads year-over growth

The unemployment rate in Fresno County was 9.5 percent in March 2006, down from 9.7 percent in February 2006, and below the year-ago estimate of 10.9 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 5.0 percent for California and 4.8 percent for the nation during the same period.

Between February 2006 and March 2006, total wage and salary employment increased by 1,600 jobs (up 0.5 percent) to total 328,600. Nonfarm employment expanded by 2,600 jobs (up 0.9 percent), while farm employment declined by 1,000 jobs (down 3.0 percent).

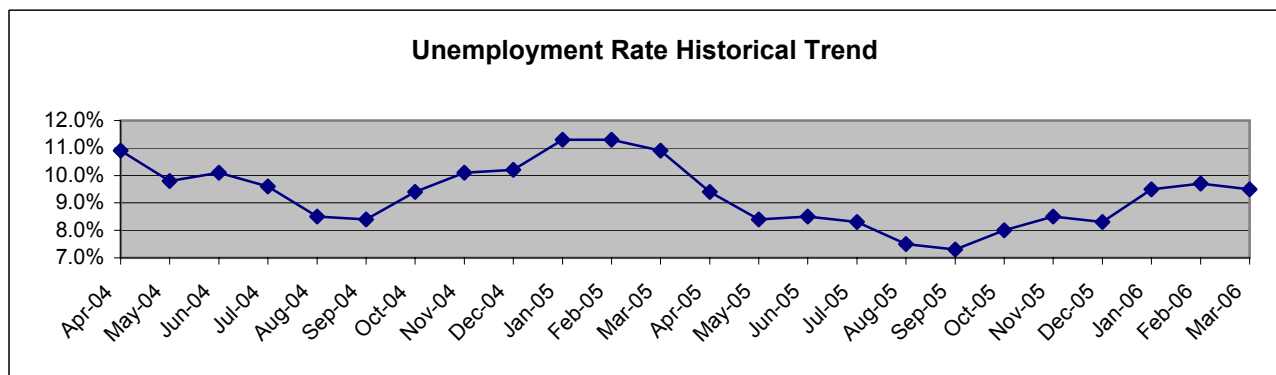
- Government posted the largest month-over gain, with the addition of 1,900 jobs due to the influence of tax season. Federal government jobs accounted for 1,300, or 68 percent, of the overall gain. State government added 200 jobs, with all of the increase posted in state education. Local government gained 400 jobs (300 in local education).
- Construction posted a gain of 200 jobs, all in specialty trades. Trade, transportation and utilities also added 200 jobs, split between retail trade (up 100 jobs) and transportation, warehousing and utilities (up 100 jobs).
- Farm jobs declined by 1,000 due to inclement weather affecting some vegetable harvest activities and the majority of vineyards completing their pre-harvest activities, such as pruning and tying vines.

Between March 2005 and March 2006, total wage and salary employment grew by 5,300 jobs, or 1.6 percent. Nonfarm employment increased by 6,300 jobs (up 2.2 percent), while farm employment decreased by 1,000 jobs (down 3.0 percent).

- Construction led the year-over gains with an additional 2,100 jobs. Specialty trades accounted for nearly 76 percent of the gain, adding 1,600 jobs. General and heavy construction added 500 jobs.
- Government rose by 1,500 jobs, with gains scattered throughout the industry. Federal government added 200 jobs, state government added 500 jobs, and local government added 800 jobs.
- Health care contributed 67 percent to the overall growth in educational and health services (up 900 jobs).
- Trade, transportation and utilities reported a year-over gain with the addition of 600 jobs. Wholesale trade (up 500 jobs) accounted for 83 percent of the growth.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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 (Fresno County)

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Industry	Feb-2006	Mar-2006	Change		Mar-2005	Mar-2006	Change
Total jobs	327,000	328,600	1,600		323,300	328,600	5,300
Farm Jobs	33,700	32,700	(1,000)		33,700	32,700	(1,000)
Nonfarm Jobs	293,300	295,900	2,600		289,600	295,900	6,300
Natural Resources and Mining	200	200	0		200	200	0
Construction	22,100	22,300	200		20,200	22,300	2,100
Manufacturing	25,400	25,500	100		25,700	25,500	(200)
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	55,700	55,900	200		55,300	55,900	600
Information	4,600	4,600	0		4,400	4,600	200
Financial Activities	14,600	14,600	0		14,300	14,600	300
Professional and Business Services	28,700	28,700	0		28,600	28,700	100
Educational and Health Services	37,100	37,100	0		36,200	37,100	900
Leisure and Hospitality	25,500	25,600	100		25,100	25,600	500
Other Services	10,700	10,800	100		10,500	10,800	300
Government	68,700	70,600	1,900		69,100	70,600	1,500

Notes: Data not adjusted for seasonality. Data may not add due to rounding.

Labor Force data are not revised month to month

Additional data are available on-line at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

Fresno MSA
Fresno County
Industry Employment & Labor Force
March 2005 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Percent Change	
					Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	401,000	396,900	396,200	397,400	0.3%	-0.9%
Civilian Employment	357,400	359,300	358,000	359,800	0.5%	0.7%
Civilian Unemployment	43,500	37,600	38,200	37,600	-1.6%	-13.6%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	10.9%	9.5%	9.7%	9.5%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.8%	5.3%	5.4%	5.0%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.4%	5.1%	5.1%	4.8%		

Total, All Industries (2)	323,300	323,900	327,000	328,600	0.5%	1.6%
Total Farm	33,700	33,600	33,700	32,700	-3.0%	-3.0%
Total Nonfarm	289,600	290,300	293,300	295,900	0.9%	2.2%
Total Private	220,500	223,600	224,600	225,300	0.3%	2.2%
Goods Producing	46,100	47,400	47,700	48,000	0.6%	4.1%
Natural Resources and Mining	200	200	200	200	0.0%	0.0%
Construction	20,200	21,900	22,100	22,300	0.9%	10.4%
Building, Develop & Gen Cont & Hvy Const	7,100	7,500	7,600	7,600	0.0%	7.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	13,100	14,400	14,500	14,700	1.4%	12.2%
Manufacturing	25,700	25,300	25,400	25,500	0.4%	-0.8%
Durable Goods	10,300	10,400	10,500	10,600	1.0%	2.9%
Nondurable Goods	15,400	14,900	14,900	14,900	0.0%	-3.2%
Food Manufacturing	11,400	10,500	10,500	10,500	0.0%	-7.9%
Residual-Beverage and Tobacco Product Mfg	4,000	4,400	4,400	4,400	0.0%	10.0%
Service Providing	243,500	242,900	245,600	247,900	0.9%	1.8%
Private Service Producing	174,400	176,200	176,900	177,300	0.2%	1.7%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	55,300	56,100	55,700	55,900	0.4%	1.1%
Wholesale Trade	12,100	12,600	12,600	12,600	0.0%	4.1%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	5,800	5,700	5,700	5,700	0.0%	-1.7%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	5,000	5,600	5,600	5,600	0.0%	12.0%
Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	34,000	34,200	33,800	33,900	0.3%	-0.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	6,100	5,800	5,800	5,800	0.0%	-4.9%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,600	0.0%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	6,800	7,100	6,800	6,900	1.5%	1.5%
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	18,500	18,600	18,600	18,600	0.0%	0.5%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	9,200	9,300	9,300	9,400	1.1%	2.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	7,800	7,700	7,700	7,800	1.3%	0.0%
Utilities	1,400	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	14.3%
Information	4,400	4,500	4,600	4,600	0.0%	4.5%
Financial Activities	14,300	14,500	14,600	14,600	0.0%	2.1%
Finance and Insurance	10,000	10,300	10,400	10,400	0.0%	4.0%
Insurance Carriers and Related	4,500	4,700	4,700	4,700	0.0%	4.4%
Residual-Credit Intermediation and Related Act	5,500	5,600	5,700	5,700	0.0%	3.6%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	4,300	4,200	4,200	4,200	0.0%	-2.3%
Professional and Business Services	28,600	28,400	28,700	28,700	0.0%	0.3%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10,600	10,500	10,700	10,700	0.0%	0.9%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,200	2,900	2,900	2,900	0.0%	-9.4%
Administrative and Support and Waste Services	14,800	15,000	15,100	15,100	0.0%	2.0%
Administrative and Support Services	14,100	14,200	14,300	14,300	0.0%	1.4%
Employment Services	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,900	0.0%	1.7%
Residual-Other Support Services	8,300	8,400	8,400	8,400	0.0%	1.2%
Waste Management and Remediation Services	700	800	800	800	0.0%	14.3%
Educational and Health Services	36,200	36,900	37,100	37,100	0.0%	2.5%
Educational Services	3,600	3,500	3,700	3,700	0.0%	2.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	32,600	33,400	33,400	33,400	0.0%	2.5%
Health Care	28,300	28,900	28,900	28,900	0.0%	2.1%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10,700	11,400	11,500	11,500	0.0%	7.5%
Hospitals	11,200	11,100	11,000	10,900	-0.9%	-2.7%

Fresno MSA
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	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Percent Change	
					Month	Year
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,500	1.6%	1.6%
Social Assistance	4,300	4,500	4,500	4,500	0.0%	4.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	25,100	25,300	25,500	25,600	0.4%	2.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	0.0%	0.0%
Accommodation and Food Service	22,400	22,600	22,800	22,900	0.4%	2.2%
Accommodation	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0%	-5.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	20,500	20,800	21,000	21,100	0.5%	2.9%
Full-Service Restaurants	8,700	8,900	8,900	8,900	0.0%	2.3%
Limited-Service Eating Places	10,500	10,500	10,600	10,700	0.9%	1.9%
Residual-Special Food Services	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,500	0.0%	15.4%
Other Services	10,500	10,500	10,700	10,800	0.9%	2.9%
Government	69,100	66,700	68,700	70,600	2.8%	2.2%
Federal Government	11,300	9,000	10,200	11,500	12.7%	1.8%
State and Local Government	57,800	57,700	58,500	59,100	1.0%	2.2%
State Government	9,600	9,900	9,900	10,100	2.0%	5.2%
State Government Education	3,400	3,300	3,300	3,500	6.1%	2.9%
Other State Government	6,200	6,600	6,600	6,600	0.0%	6.5%
Local Government	48,200	47,800	48,600	49,000	0.8%	1.7%
Local Government Education	30,600	29,800	30,600	30,900	1.0%	1.0%
County	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200	0.0%	0.0%
City	5,500	5,700	5,700	5,800	1.8%	5.5%
Other Local Government	3,900	4,100	4,100	4,100	0.0%	5.1%

Note 1: Civilian labor force data are by place of residence; include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

Note 2: Industry employment is by place of work; excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

Effective with the release of the February data on March 24, 2006, we will no longer release revised monthly labor force data for the previous month. Labor force data for all geographic areas will not be revised until the annual benchmark process.

These data are produced by the Labor Market Information Division of the California State Employment Development Department (EDD). Questions should be directed to: Nannette Potter-559/230-4077 or Sheila Urdesich (559/230-4142)

These data, as well as other labor market data, are available via the Internet at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>. If you need assistance, please call (916) 262-2162.

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